

Missouri GRP Scoring Worksheet Instructions FY 2005

Field office: Enter the name of the field office. **NRCS Area:** Indicate NRCS Area **Farm Bill Region:** see attached map and indicate where offer is physically located. **Date:** date you are completing this form.

Applicant(s): enter name(s) of applicants. **LRF:** See <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/> Enter Y or N based on USDA definition. **New Farmer:** See http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/smlfarmer_v2/Beginning-D.htm Enter Y or N based on USDA definition. (Applicants will be required to submit supporting data to document choice prior to offer submission. All producers/applicants on the GRP offer must qualify as LRF or NF for the application to qualify as LRF or NF.)

Address: Applicants Address

Farm Number: FSA farm number **Tract Number:** FSA tract number **Acres in Application:** acres offered

Rental Agreement and Conservation Easement Length: circle only ONE option, based on Applicant's request. *Conservation Easements will only be accepted on those offers which include more than 50 percent remnant prairie/savanna/glade acres. Only one offer type may be submitted; i.e., cannot submit a 10-year Rental Agreement and a 30-year Easement for the same acres.*

One offer per application. Multiple tracts/farms may be submitted as one offer ONLY IF they are contiguous; non-contiguous tracts/farms must be submitted as separate GRP offers. The GRP offer, which may include grassland acres and certain incidental areas, must be for at least 40 contiguous acres; incidental areas can not comprise more than 10% of the GRP offer; the applicant's written request for possible relief must be provided to the State Conservationist for consideration, along with copies of the completed Scoring Worksheet and an aerial map, PRIOR to submission of offer by the Field Office. The final score will be the cumulative score of all areas of concern. Incidental areas do NOT receive GRP funds, but will be included in the GRP offer and conservation plan. Only existing practices are eligible for points.

1. Plant Community

(maximum score = 40 points)

Inventoried remnant native prairie/savanna/glade areas are listed in each county's Missouri Natural Heritage Database, according to MO190-3-7, dated April 28, 2003. Other sites may be included if known to Field or Area Office staffs. To calculate points: determine acres of remnant prairies, then divide these acres by the total acres in offer; take this amount times the 40 points available to arrive at score. Example: 50 acres offered includes 14 acres of remnant area: take 14 divided by 50 = 0.28 X 40 = 11.2 points awarded.

Planted native grasslands are those areas *previously planted and established*; a list of native species is available in eFOTG Section IV-A under practice 643 "Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats" with additional species as approved by Area Staff; fields must contain one or more of any referenced specie(s). To calculate points: determine acres of planted native species, then divide these acres by the total acres in offer; take this amount times the 25 points available to arrive at score. Example: 75 acres offered includes 45 acres of planted natives: take 45 divided by 75 = 0.6 X 25 = 15 points awarded.

Introduced species conducive to wildlife habitat are listed in eFOTG Section IV-A under practice 327 "Conservation Cover" in Table 2 column entitled 'Wildlife Rating.' Points may be earned for those fields in which at least 60% of the *previously planted and established* stand is composed of those species rated Excellent or Good, and contains no more than 20% species rated Poor. To calculate points: determine acres of eligible introduced species, then divide these acres by the total acres in the offer; take this amount times the 15 points available to arrive at score. Example: 120 acres offered includes 42 acres of wildlife grassland acres: take 42 divided by 120 = 0.35 X 15 = 5.25 rounds to 5.3 points awarded.

2. Conversion risk

(maximum score = 55 points)

Non-Ag Use

Fragmentation occurs in those counties where there is a population shift into rural areas, generally leading to the conversion of grassland-based farms to smaller, non-grassland based situations. (This process is different from urbanization, where grassland expanses are wholly converted to subdivisions, strip malls, and supporting infrastructure.) The attached worksheet reflects the percent change in open country, indicative of fragmentation. To determine score: open work sheet entitled Conversion Risk Information, locate County name where offer is located; applicable points are found in column C entitled Non-Ag Score. Points may be earned in both Non-ag Use and Conversion to Cropland if applicable.

Conversion to cropland

Prime farmland map units are listed in the eFOTG, Section II-B(4). Determine map unit acres in offer that are considered prime farmland; then divide these acres by the total acres in offer, which will give you the percent of offer; take this amount times the 25 points available to arrive at score. EXAMPLE: 60 acres offered, includes 22 acres prime farmland: take 22 divided by 60 = 0.37 X 25 = 9.17 rounds to 9.2 points awarded.

Grassland acres located in counties with large numbers of cropland acres will generally have more pressure to convert grass acres to annual commodity crop acres. To determine score: open worksheet entitled Conversion Risk Information, locate County name where offer is located; applicable points are found in column D entitled Cropland Score.

3. Existing grazing operations	(maximum score = 40 points)
Grazed acres <i>can</i> include hay land that is part of the overall grazing operation on that tract.	
Hayed acres are those offers submitted in which the primary production is hay.	
4. Biodiversity	(maximum score = 40 points)
Refer to eFOTG II-F(1) to determine presence of protected species and then to eFOTG II-F(3) for the Planning Matrix. <i>Only use column 1 "Prairie Birds/Mammals" to determine points. Any other species, or species listed in other columns are not eligible for points.</i>	
WRP and other permanently protected areas must include grassland practices or management activities to earn points; additionally, these permanently protected areas MUST be at least 40 acres in size. To earn points, the 40 acres of eligible adjacent acres MUST touch, border or be contiguous to the offer.	
Grassland Coalition Focus Areas are those areas in which resources have been concentrated to benefit grassland restoration and wildlife habitat. To earn points, the offered GRP acres must be within the boundaries of a designated Grassland Coalition Focus Area.	
5. Duration of Offer	(maximum score = 25 points)
Long term Rental Agreements & Easements and Permanent Easements which are on Remnant Prairie/Savanna/Glade locations have a great value to society. Those offers in which <i>existing land cover is more than 50% Remnant Prairie/Savanna/Glade</i> , as determined in Section 1 of the GRP Worksheet, are eligible to earn points as follows: Rental Agreement length of 30 years earns 10 points OR Conservation Easement length of 30 years earns 15 points OR Conservation Easement of Permanent length earns 20 points. <i>Please note: these points are only available on those offers which have more than 50% remnant prairie/savanna/glade acres AND one of the following: (1) 30-year Rental Agreement OR (2) 30-year Easement OR (3) Permanent Easement.</i>	
6. Cost Effectiveness of GRP Funds	(complete only for permanent easement offers!)
USDA statute requires that federal funds be used in a fiscally responsible manner. For GRP, <i>Permanent Conservation Easement</i> offers which are in excess of true farmland values will have points deducted from the offer's overall score in order to place all <i>Conservation Easement</i> offers on the same level for costs. To determine score: open worksheet entitled Costs and locate County where <i>Conservation Easement offer</i> is located; review the 2005 Estimated GRP Fair Market Value amount as it is listed in column B; if the 2005 Estimated GRP Fair Market Value exceeds \$2500 subtract 40 points from score, if the Value in column B is \$2000 thru \$2499 subtract 30 points from score, if the Value in column B is \$1500 thru \$1999 subtract 20 points from score; if the amount listed for the location County is less than \$1500 there is no deduction. <i>Please note: this section is to be completed only when the offer involves a Permanent Conservation Easement; these are only available when more than 50% of the offered acres occur on Remnant Prairies/Savanna/Glade acres, as is scored in Section 1.</i>	
Total Score add points earned in each of the 6 areas; this score <i>can not</i> exceed 200 .	
Total GRP Dollar amount requested for offer; this figure reflects the <i>entire amount</i> requested for the life of the Rental Agreement or the estimated cost of a 30-year or Permanent Easement.	
To calculate <i>Rental Agreement Offers</i> : take Acres in Application times Rental Agreement Length times County Rental Rate. Example: applicant offers 72.8 acres for 15 years in XYZCounty with rental rate of \$12.50 per acre; take $72.8 \times 15 \times 12.50 = \$13,650.00$ is the Total GRP Dollar amount requested for offer.	
To calculate <i>Conservation Easement Offers</i> : open worksheet entitled Costs and locate County name where offer is located. For a GRP Permanent Easement offer, take Acres in Application times the <i>estimated</i> 2005 GRP Permanent Easement Payment amount as listed under column D. For a 30-year GRP Easement, take Acres in Application times the <i>estimated</i> 30-year Easement Payment amount as listed under column E. Example: applicant offers 52.7 acres for a Permanent Easement in RDJCounty where the Estimated Permanent Easement payment is \$525.72 per acre; take $52.7 \times 525.72 = \$27,705.44$ is the <i>estimated</i> GRP funds requested for the offer. Example: applicant offers 79.5 acres for a 30-year Easement in PCRCCounty where the Estimated 30-year Easement payment is \$135.55 per acre; take $79.5 \times 135.55 = \$10,776.23$ is the <i>estimated</i> GRP funds requested for the offer.	
<i>Please note: the actual dollar amount offered for GRP Conservation Easements will be based on a certified appraisal which establishes the fair market value (based on highest and best use) and the grassland value; permanent easement offers will be the fair market value minus the grassland value, while 30-year easement offers will be thirty percent of the permanent easement value. Producers will have the right of refusal for any GRP Easement Offer amount.</i>	